

## State of Borth Carolina ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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## N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission Acts on 170 Cases, Approves Two ABC Stores and Continues Rules Review Process

**RALEIGH** – The NC ABC Commission met today and took action on 170 violations by permit holders, granted conditional approval to the Cumberland County ABC Board for a store location at 7621 S. Raeford Road and approved a U.S Highway 76-Business store location in Chadbourn requested by the West Columbus ABC Board.

In taking its action, the Commission imposed penalties and fines of more than \$200,000 on representatives of retail bars, restaurants, groceries and clubs found to be in violation of their permits. In addition to the fines, many of the violations resulted in suspensions of permits for five days or more. The fines are to be paid by Nov.5, 2010 with suspensions beginning Nov. 12, 2010. Fines benefit the local school systems where the violations occurred.

There was no public comment about the proposed new ABC Store in Chadbourn. However, the store proposed for the intersection of Gillis Hill Road and Raeford Road in Cumberland County generated a written objection and a spoken objection from a member of a nearby church as well a spoken objection from a nearby landowner whose family has farmed in the community for eight generations. In consideration of the concerns raised, the Commission voted to give conditional approval to the store site, but directed Commission staff to work with the Cumberland ABC Board management to establish restrictions on the size and prominence of signage for the new store.

The Commission voted to follow staff recommendations with regard to approving all technical changes recommended by the Rules Review Commission for 04 NC Administrative Code 02R; the Commission also agreed with three opinions recommended by the Rules Review Commission and declined two other changes suggested by the Rules Review Commission to Chapter 2R. There were no speakers at a public hearing held for additional proposed rule changes to 2S and SR. Review and consideration of updates to Chapter 2T were scheduled for the Commission's November meeting.

The Commission also voted to exercise its option to extend a contract for warehouse services with LB&B Associates for an additional year. Prior to the extension, the contract had been set to expire June 30, 2011.

## ABOUT THE ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 19 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has provided regulation and control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages in the state of North Carolina. The Commission oversees more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 17,000 retail outlets across the state. In fiscal year 2009, the Commission returned more than \$250 million in taxes and revenue to benefit the General Fund and the budgets of local cities and counties that sell alcoholic beverages.